Office of the Attorney General
State of Arizona
CIVIL LITIGATION DIVISION

MARK BRNOVICH Attorney General

JOSEPH SCIARROTTA, JR. Division Chief

February 7, 2022

VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL

GoFundMe, Inc. Attn: Kim Wilford, General Counsel 855 Jefferson Avenue P.O. Box 1329 Redwood City, California 94063 legal@gofundme.com

Cogency Global Inc. 1325 J. Street, Suite 1550 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Litigation Document Preservation Letter

GoFundMe's Handling of Freedom Convoy 2022 Fundraiser and Other Fundraisers

Dear General Counsel Wilford:

Consumers donated millions of dollars to the Freedom Convoy 2022 fundraiser through GoFundMe's platform. The Arizona Attorney General's Office is concerned about how GoFundMe has and continues to handle this fundraiser, as well as others.

On February 4, GoFundMe announced that it had removed the Freedom Convoy 2022 fundraiser from its platform. By the time of its announcement, GoFundMe had distributed \$1 million of the raised funds to the Freedom Convoy 2022 organizers. As for the remaining funds (which are much more than \$1 million), GoFundMe initially stated that it would confiscate those funds and redistribute the donations to other charities unilaterally chosen by GoFundMe. Then, GoFundMe appeared to begrudgingly offer donors a limited time to request refunds by submitting a form.

On February 5, GoFundMe facing international rebuke for its specious course of action that appears to violate many laws, including consumer protection statutes, announced a different plan for the substantial remaining funds, stating: "We will automatically refund all contributions directly—donors do not need to submit a request. You can expect to see your refund within 7–10 business days."

The Arizona Attorney General's Office protects consumers from fraud, deception and unfair treatment. *See* A.R.S. § 44-1521-1534. Our office intends to investigate this matter.

Accordingly, GoFundMe is hereby on notice to preserve materials of any kind, including but not limited to, all documents, drafts, emails, voicemails, text or communication app messages of any kind, and social media communications relating in any way and all times to the Freedom Convoy 2022 fundraiser. This includes, and also is not limited to, GoFundMe's decision to remove the fundraiser from its platform, any funds raised, any funds distributed, any refunds requested, and any refunds made. In addition, GoFundMe is hereby on notice to preserve the same for any other GoFundMe fundraisers since January 1, 2020 in which it decided not to distribute funds for the intended fundraising purpose and then redistributed the fundraising monies or claimed to refund those monies to donors.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Joshua Whitaker at <u>Joshua.Whitaker@azag.gov</u> or 602-542-7738. The Arizona Attorney General's office will be in contact subsequently with GoFundMe with more formal and detailed investigatory demands.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sciarrotta, Jr. Division Chief

Civil Litigation Division

JS/mec

cc: Leslie Cooper, Consumer Protection Section Chief Counsel
Matthew du Mee, Consumer Protection Litigation Unit Chief Counsel
Joshua Whitaker, Senior Litigation Counsel